

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device to assist in regenerating bone, the device configured to at least partially surround the bone to be regenerated and defining a cavity next to the bone, the device further including one or more openings through which a material may be placed into the cavity, the cavity for retaining the material next to the bone, the material comprising a substance for stimulating bone growth.
2. The device of claim 1 that is comprised of wire mesh.
3. The device of claim 1 that is preformed to fit over the bone to be regenerated.
4. The device of claim 1 wherein the bone is a jaw bone of a human.
5. The device of claim 1 wherein each of the openings has a dimension of about .180 inches by .090 inches.
6. The device of claim 1 wherein there are two openings.
7. The device of claim 6 wherein the device has two sides and a top opening is on a side of the device and the other opening is on the opposite side of the device.
8. The device of claim 2 wherein the wire mesh is comprised of steel.
9. The device of claim 1 that further includes a space through which the shaft of a screw may pass so that the device may be attached to a post by the screw.
10. The device of claim 9 that further includes a post retained in the bone, and a screw with a shaft, the shaft passing through the spaces and being received in the post thereby securing the device to the post.
11. The device of claim 1 that is dimensioned to fit over the entire lower jaw of a human.

12. The device of claim 1 that is dimensioned to fit over the entire upper jaw of a human.
13. The device of claim 1 wherein the material is a collagen sponge.
14. The device of claim 1 wherein the substance is morphogenetic protein.
15. The device of claim 13 wherein the sponge contains morphogenetic protein.
16. The device of claim 1 that snap fits onto a post.
17. The device of claim 1 that further includes a material retained in the cavity.
18. The device of claim 17 wherein the substance is morphogenetic protein.
19. The device of claim 17 wherein the material is positioned in the cavity prior to the device being secured to a post affixed in the bone.
20. The device of claim 2 wherein the wire mesh has a diameter of 0.015".
21. The device of claim 1 that includes a flap, the flap movable to cover one of the openings.
22. The device of claim 21 wherein each of the openings includes a flap movable to cover the opening.
23. The device of claim 1 wherein the device is formed of a material that can be absorbed into the body.
24. The device of claim 1 that further includes a mating component, the mating component having a screw for attaching to a post.
25. The device of claim 24 wherein the mating component is configured to mate with the configuration of a post mounted in a jaw.

26. The device of claim 24 wherein the screw can turn without turning the device.